



TARA FISCHER/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

Worcester County Commissioner Jim Bunting, with Commissioner Chip Bertino, explains to the audience at the Ocean Pines Library last Wednesday why he opposes a county plan to raise water and sewer rates in all districts to cover losses in experienced in just some of them.

## ACE withdraws as candidate for election job

Says requirements shifted in request for proposals

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2025) The election vendor for the 2025 Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors election has yet to be named, after a motion to authorize contract negotiations with ACE Printing and Mailing of Berlin failed to carry.

ACE formally withdrew from consideration following the discussions at the OPA Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, April 26.

At the meeting, John Latham, board secretary and liaison to the elections committee, made a motion to select ACE Printing and Mailing as the company to conduct this summer's election to choose the homeowner association's governing body.

The motion failed to carry in a 3-3 vote. Directors Latham, Elaine Brady, and Steve Jacobs voted for it, while Rick Farr, Stuart Lakernick, and Jeff Heavner opposed. Director Monica Rakowski abstained.

Prior to the vote, a lengthy discussion among members focused on ACE's ability to conduct the election efficiently and the election committee's lack of follow-up questions asked of the potential vendor.

Elections Committee Chair Steve Ransdell said the group was split on whether to recommend ACE or MK Election Services, which handled the task last year. According to Ransdell,

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**'Because on our committee there was strong support for ACE, and I was on the opposite side of the discussion, I reached out to [the ACE president] to ask a few questions.'**

Steve Ransdell

## Utility rate plan opposed in OP

Commissioners Bunting, Bertino explain opposition to across-the-board hike

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2025) Opposing a proposed sewer and water fund budget that would increase quarterly utility rates remains the priority of Ocean Pines and its Worcester County representatives, who held a public meeting last Wednesday that included the threat of legal action.

Convening in the Ocean Pines Library at the invitation of Worcester

County Commissioners Chip Bertino and Jim Bunting, who represent Ocean Pines, residents were given the opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions about the budget proposed in March.

The Ocean Pines service area includes Ocean Pines, Pennington Commons, Bay Point Plantation, Pines Plaza, Turville Creek Area, Ocean Downs, and Crabs to Go. Water and sewer are planned for St. Martins and Dolly Circle, yet neither has been constructed.

If passed, the spending plan would raise water and wastewater rates by an estimated \$32 a quarter across all

11 county utility districts to alleviate a \$2.1 million deficit in fiscal year 2026.

Opponents argue the proposal unfairly targets service areas, like Ocean Pines, that had only a minor impact on the accumulated debt.

Each district's budget is contained in a separate accounting entity known as an "enterprise fund." According to Bertino, Ocean Pines' fund shows a loss of \$116,699, which should result in fee increases of only \$1 to \$3 rather than the intended \$32.

By contrast, the shortfall in the Riddle Farm's sewer and water enterprise fund is a little over \$1 million.

See BERTINO Page 8

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# ACE withdraws bid for Pines election work

Continued from Page 1  
the election team voted 3-2 in favor of ACE. The chair added his choice was MK Elections Services of New Haven, Connecticut.

The board’s hesitancy to select ACE Printing and Mailing stemmed from the company’s assertion that it needed time to create a new custom online voting portal for Ocean Pines. OPA Board of Directors Vice President Rick Farr asked if it had been developed or tested. Ransdell said that, to his knowledge, that program has not been created at this point.

“Because on our committee there was strong support for ACE, and I was on the opposite side of the discussion, I reached out to [the ACE president] to ask a few questions, largely to see if I could come around to supporting the rest of the committee,” Ransdell said. “I asked him about that very thing, and he was, I don’t want to say dismissive, but he assured me that whatever needed to be done would be done in compliance with our timeline and would be ready to go in plenty of time.”

It was also stated that ACE did not provide references to past work similar to the style of hybrid election that Ocean Pines required election, citing confidentiality concerns.

“I know in any business, references

as far as performances are critical and important,” Farr said. “Not being able to share references is a concern for me on that aspect of being able to show past performance. So, I will be brutally honest that that’s a red flag ... I understand confidentiality. However, as far as providing references of past performance, I think it’s very important for us to make this type of decision.”

Heavner asked how ACE plans to count the physical ballots, as voters can vote online or by paper, and if they would use Ocean Pines’ reader or if they were in possession of their own. Ransdell said he was unsure, but that he suspected ACE “very well might sub out that work” just as MK Elections does.

The chair added that ACE also committed to an observable count and even offered to conduct it on site, to which Ransdell said he “didn’t know what to make of that.” He said he could reach back out if necessary.

In a letter written by ACE President Thom Gulyas to OPA formally withdrawing from consideration for the election contract, he wrote that requests not initially stated in the RFP have been placed on ACE following the discussions held on April 26. In the correspondence, he maintained that his company does have reader equipment for physical votes.

“Ownership of ballot scanning equipment was not specified as mandatory in the RFP (request for proposals), although we already own such equipment,” the letter said.

During the conversation, Brady said she was hesitant to decide, as there appeared to be a lack of vital information, like ACE’s experience with online voting.

“You said you don’t know if they have [handled a hybrid election], you didn’t really ask or nail that down,” she said, addressing Ransdell. “Quite frankly, that’s something we expect from the committee to be able to follow through and provide those kinds of answers. It makes me a little unsettled today to make a decision because we don’t really know if the answer is yes or no, or maybe so.”

Jacobs reiterated Brady’s concerns but noted that when he ran for the community board three years ago, he hired ACE to create his signs and will likely use their services again if he does run this year. However, he said that more information is needed about the company’s ability to conduct a hybrid election.

“It does seem to me that there are a number of questions that need further exploration that have been raised by the board,” Jacobs said. “... there appears to be some lack of clarity, might

be the best way to put it.”  
Ransdell said that he hoped to have a selected vendor by this week.

Ultimately, the motion to enter into negotiations with ACE failed. The intention was to receive additional information from the Berlin-based group and have conversations this week to create a plan for selecting a contractor. A wrench was thrown into the plan when ACE released a letter at the start of this week withdrawing from election service consideration.

“After reviewing the video and transcript of your recent Board meeting discussion, we must express serious concerns regarding the evolving nature of the selection process and the apparent deviation from the requirements set forward in the original RFP,” the note reads.

The correspondence claims that requests from OP were not included in the original RFP, such as providing client references, demonstrating a functioning online voting portal, and owning ballot scanning equipment. ACE also expressed concern at the “public questioning of their business model and service offerings” at the April 26 board meeting.

The letter adds that the “financial implications of the board’s actions cannot be ignored.” ACE’s bid was  
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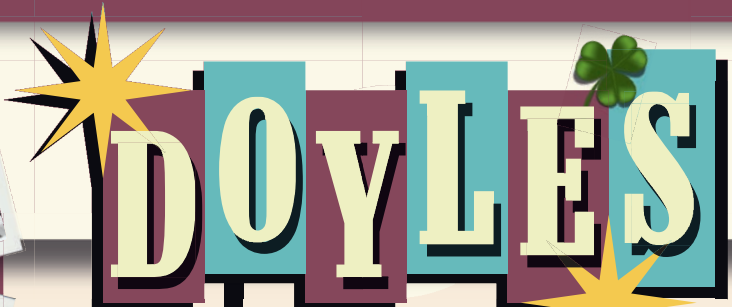
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# 'Keep Berlin Cool' initiative scores coastal bays grant

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2025) The Berlin Horticulture Advisory Committee announced that its "Keep Berlin Cool" initiative was selected as a grant recipient and will receive \$2,980.

Last week, the group revealed via a Facebook post that its tree-planting project was chosen as a grant awardee. The funds will be dispersed by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and are intended to "improve urban tree canopy cover and absorb stormwater runoff in town," the post reads.

The project will include planting native trees between a mix of private residences, town-owned property, and congregations. According to horticulture committee member Victoria Spice, the initiative will likely target areas that were identified in a 2007 stormwater report conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

"We want to target some of the areas that were identified in the USACE report, a stormwater report from 2007. A huge stormwater report was done in Berlin, where they identified some specific stormwater areas. So we combined that report with some of our local knowledge of areas that flood and are really trying to target those problem areas."

Spice added that while these sites will be prioritized, the horticulture group hopes to choose various spots in town to plant native trees.

"We recognize the fact that it's also important to have buffers and have trees and vegetation around the areas...like the headwaters of these streams and so forth," she continued. "We're not closed off to any specific property."

Spice said that the group has budgeted between one and three trees for each of the 10 sites. A large part of the awarded funds will be used for the "five or seven-gallon native trees that we will be selecting for each property."

The money will also be used to purchase shovels and supplies to support the plant materials, such as tree tubes and posts, and outreach postcards to be mailed to priority areas. Spice noted that once the trees are planted, the team also intends to create campaign signs to inform folks about the program.

Town staff will not be responsible for the work associated with the initiative. The horticulture team is leading the program, creating site plans and determining which trees will be ideal for each particular spot. The town will also not be liable for the success of the trees' growth or their maintenance.

The horticulture team went before the Berlin Town Council in February to request authorization to apply for

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## Gulyas says RFP details changed

Continued from Page 3  
\$18,685, while MK Elections’ was \$31,539.

ACE handled Ocean Pines’ election before the association added an online voting option. In 2023, the board selected Election Trust of Washington State to run that year’s election. In 2024, the group chose MK Election Services.

In withdrawing his company from consideration, Gulyas wrote, “In light of the serious procedural irregularities and breaches already identified, we expect prompt corrective action from the board to restore compliance with the original RFP requirements and to ensure all vendors are treated equitably and fairly moving forward.

“However, given the cumulative procedural irregularities, shifting requirements, confidentiality breaches, and demonstrable bias exhibited during this process, ACE Printing & Mailing formally withdraws all consideration from this RFP and disassociates from any further involvement under OPA’s current, tainted framework.

“We categorically reject any continued participation in a procurement exercise that so plainly violates the fundamental standards of fairness, transparency, and professional ethics.”

# Berlin seeking new grant to demo

## Council approves plan to seek state funds to remove old multi-purpose building

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2025) This week, the Berlin Town Council authorized the submission of an application for Community Development Block Grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

The dollars will be used for the demolition of an existing multipurpose building on 130 Flower Street, the site of the town’s planned community center.

Sara Gorfinkel, executive assistant to Berlin Mayor Zack Tyndall, said that last year, the town applied for a \$500,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s CDBG program to demolish the buildings on the property and conduct site work. The project was not awarded the full \$500,000 but received \$100,000 to begin a feasibility study and pay for preliminary expenses.

Throughout this process, Gorfinkel said, it was learned that there are additional funds available that the Town of Berlin may now reapply for, up to \$300,000, specifically for the removal of spot blight. If awarded the

funds, the town would use the money to demolish the multipurpose building located on 130 Flower Street, which is deemed a danger and an eyesore in the space.

The funds will only be used for the structure’s demolition if awarded.

“This application is a special application,” Gorfinkel said. “As great as the community center is and will be, this is super specific to only demolishing the multipurpose building.”

According to the executive assistant, the structure is in disrepair. Hazardous materials, asbestos, and lead paint are present, making it a blight on the 130 Flower Street property.

Gorfinkel said any project funded with the CDBG must meet national requirements. To be deemed eligible, objectives like benefiting persons of low and moderate income, preventing slum or blight, and eliminating an immediate threat to health, safety, and welfare must be met.

This project has been approved to apply for the elimination of spot blight.

“The Town of Berlin is seeking funds to demolish the dilapidated multipurpose building at 130 Flower Street,” the executive assistant said. “It has been abandoned, tested positive for lead paint and asbestos, and suffered severe roof damage during

the 2024-2025 winter storms. The building, once used for community events but long abandoned, is now a source of blight near Henry Park, which includes a playground and a basketball court frequented by families and children.”

The Berlin Town Council authorized applying for the community development grant this week. The push to build a community center in Berlin has been ongoing. Through a partnership between the Town of Berlin, Berlin Community Improvement Association (BCIA), SHOREUP! Inc., and the Worcester County Commissioners, four parcels of property on Flower Street, formerly the site of the Flower Street School, for a future community center have been combined. The hope is that a community center will serve the town with meeting space, recreational activities, and services and amenities.

Next week, the community is invited to participate in community center engagement meetings. The meetings will be held May 6, 6-7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church on 405 Flower Street and May 7, noon-1:30 p.m. at Town Hall’s council chambers. Interactive discussions, small group brainstorming and opportunities to register votes for project features will be held.

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# Bertino, Bunting rallying OP against rate increase plan

Continued from Page 1

Bertino and Bunting oppose the presented plan, contending that it would be used as a model to pay back a looming \$6 million loan to address budgetary shortfalls within the combined water/ wastewater enterprise service areas.

These shortfalls were created by financial inconsistencies with the enterprise fund operations discovered in February 2024 when the county budget office and deputy chief administrative officer were implementing new procedures.

Bertino said at a special meeting of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors in March that following this discovery, it was learned the county finance department neglected to bring to anyone's attention "accumulated deficits and that the budget transfers were being made on paper from reserves that did not exist in individual areas."

The commissioners were informed, and to avoid furthering the crisis, they approved a transfer of about \$9 million from the general fund to the enterprise fund. While \$2.7 million was designated as a grant to the Riddle Farm Service area, \$6.3 million was provided as a loan with an interest rate of about 5% that would be required to be paid back to the general fund over 10 years beginning in fiscal 2027.

Bertino maintained that the Ocean Pines service area did not contribute to the accrued losses.

Rather, \$242,000 was given to Edgewater Acres, \$790,000 to the Landings, \$1,730,000 to Mystic Harbor, \$200,000 to Newark, and \$3,339,010 to Riddle Farm. This debt must be repaid over 10 years beginning in FY27. The \$2,760,177 grant to Riddle Farm does not need to be repaid.

Officials worry that if the spending plan to make up FY26's \$2.1 million debt is approved, that same process, which raises the fees of ratepayers across all service areas equally despite that area's actual contribution to the deficit, is likely to be used to address the \$6 million loan.

The FY26 plan was created by a water/wastewater discussion group made up of county staff and county commissioners Ted Elder, Eric Fiori, and Bunting. Bertino said the team met three times, and a majority voted to present the proposal on March 18.

Bertino and Bunting have been informing their constituents of the plan in an attempt to halt its passage.

"This is only one proposal, but it is the only proposal put forward to be considered for the budget at this point," Bertino said. "The reason for that has to do with the timelines and restrictions of putting the budget together. County administration and our budget director had to have something in place to move forward for the public hearing, and this stupid plan was the one the majority of commissioners decided to put forward."

Bertino said the proposal is unfair to the service areas that had a small or no impact on the deficit. The other five county commissioners, he said, support the plan.

"What was said by one of the commissioners was, now these are my words and not his, 'Ocean Pines can basically suck it up, it wasn't all that much money,'" Bertino said. "That's ridiculous. I don't care if it's \$1 or \$100, it makes no difference. We shouldn't have to deal with it."

While spreading the debt repayment across all districts is the only option being considered, Bertino said county staff has created alternative means to address the budgetary issues. One would be to require all service areas to pay for its own usage. Ocean Pines' water and sewer base fee would increase from \$207 to \$209 in this case. The commissioner added that this selection "seems fair."

Furthermore, under the county code, enterprise funds must be self-supporting, which is in line with Bertino's alternative choice.

The code reads, "The County Commissioners shall levy assessments by resolution on all properties within the sanitary service area or sub-area for the sole purpose of raising funds to retire any indebtedness of the service area or sub-area incurred for the purpose of acquiring or constructing sanitary facilities."

While this county code would prohibit the option of raising rates \$32 a quarter, Bertino said that the commissioners could tweak the guidelines to allow that choice to be implemented.

Bertino and Bunting argue that the budgetary issues require additional time to resolve, despite support for pushing through a plan that the Ocean Pines commissioners believe is not well thought out.

"Since this conversation started, [County Chief Administrative Officer Weston Young] has been saying that we need to have a longer horizon and timeline to work through these issues," said Bertino. "[Bunting] and I agree with that. At this point, I don't

**'What was said by one of the commissioners was, now these are my words and not his, 'Ocean Pines can basically suck it up, it wasn't all that much money.'**  
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Chip Bertino

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# Attorney calls plan ‘unlawful’

know how many other commissioners agree with it because it’s one commissioner who wants to sacrifice Ocean Pines on the altar of political expediency.

“If he could ram this through today, he would ... [Young] recognizes that this issue was many years in the making and it can’t be solved in just a month, or two months, or three meetings of a subcommittee that, however well intentioned, came up with a stupid plan.”

The Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors also oppose the proposed plan. On April 22, Bruce Bright of Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy, and Almand, OPA’s legal counsel, released a letter threatening civil litigation if the county proceeds it.

The letter said the plan “is pursued by a voting majority of the commissioners, is not only grossly unfair to Ocean Pines ratepayers, but just as troubling, would directly violate clear provisions of state and local law, would be contrary to the county water and sewer plan, and would in our judgement subject the county to costly legal claims not only by OPA and/or its ratepayer members, but also by the ratepayers in other unlawfully and unfairly impacted service areas (e.g., Briddletown, Edgewater Acres, Lighthouse Sound, River Run, and West Ocean City).”

The letter also quotes county code: “water and wastewater facilities and services shall be provided and managed based on separate service areas... The revenue and expenditures for each such area shall be accounted for in a separate enterprise fund in accordance with the financial management rules of the county...”

The letter argues that civil litigation will likely move forward if the plan proceeds.

“If the majority of the commissioners proceed with their unlawful and unfair plan, and take further deliberate steps in that direction, OPA and other ratepayers would likely initiate civil litigation, and advance claims against the county and certain commissioners, including breach of fiduciary duty, equal protection violation under the Fourteenth Amendment of the US Constitution, for declaratory and injunctive relief, for monetary damages and attorney’s fees, for violation of applicable state and county code provisions, for administrative mandamus, and/or for unlawful taking.”

Bertino, Bunting, and the OPA Board of Directors continue to ask the public to voice their opposition to the proposal.

A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, at 6 p.m. in the Government Center in Snow Hill.

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# Berlin group to target 10 sites

Continued from Page 6

the MCBP grant. The governing group green-lit their request, and the application was submitted by March 7. The town was notified of the award last week.

The environmentalists emphasized the grant-funded project is essential to increasing the aid that trees will provide in Berlin.

“Trees are necessary, especially in an urban setting, for habitats for our birds and pollinators, for shade, and for stormwater runoff,” horticulture committee member Victoria Spice said at the February Berlin Mayor and Council meeting.

If property owners are interested in receiving services from the horticulture advisory group, they may complete a form at <https://forms.gle/CWHou7ZLoN4re6Am9>. If a property is picked, the team will select, purchase, and plant a native tree on it for free.

Site selection and planning of 10 total sites will occur this spring. The horticulture group will likely conduct the planting in the fall.

Spice said that the group would work with the homeowner to choose the type of trees. If the property owner or resident prefers a particular species or color, as long as it’s native, the planting may be tailored to that goal.

The horticulture group is excited about the positive environmental impact this project will have on the Town of Berlin.

“[Tree planting] will bring a huge value to Berlin, not only to improve urban tree canopy cover, which we know reduces the temperature, so we can make Berlin more walkable and a more pleasant place to be a resident and a visitor,” Spice said. “It’s also going to help with stormwater runoff that we really see as a problem in Berlin. And then obviously some of the other takeaways are that it will provide habitat and nesting for our birds and flowers for our pollinators.”

The grant is reimbursable. This means that project leaders can purchase the necessary materials and invoice the nonprofit for the funds immediately.

The horticulture group is planning an outreach event for Berlin residents to meet with committee members and ask questions about the Keep Berlin Cool project. When determined, the date of the outreach event will be announced on the Town of Berlin’s website and social media, as well as the Horticulture Advisory Committee’s Instagram.

“That will just be a place where folks can come and learn about the program and potentially sign up, and/or if they just want to come and chat with us about their property and pick our brains about native plants, we are just thrilled to offer that service as well,” Spice said.



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# Administrator hosts meeting on service areas

**By Brian Shane**  
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2025) Worcester County officials may forgo a hodgepodge of tiered pricing in lieu of a higher but standardized base fee for households on county water and sewer service. The budget proposal is part of a

broader plan to fix a revenue shortfall among seven of 11 water-sewer enterprise funds, where user rates for years haven't been high enough to cover operational or capital costs.

Initial reports put that collective deficit at \$2.1 million. County Administrator Weston Young said Tuesday that "after some refining," it's down to \$1.8 million.

Young led an informational session April 21 at the Berlin library for rate payers in the Edgewater Acres, River Run, Lighthouse Sound, and Newark service zones.

Based on examples shared, quarterly bills for residents in those first three areas could rise 26% to 46%. For Newark residents, rates may only rise by a few dollars, but the increase still wouldn't be enough for that district to break even.

Other proposed changes include adding a \$5 fee per 1,000 gallons used – the fee rises to \$15 if users exceed that threshold – as well implementing an accessibility fee for all users.

Higher rates would impact all 16,000 homeowners on county water and sewer service – even for home-

owners whose zones are not in the red, like Ocean Pines, which has 10,000 users.

Elaine Brady, elected member of the Ocean Pines Association Board of Directors, said it feels like a needless rush to implement rate hikes, which will amount to double taxation for her and her neighbors.

"Are we now going to have to pay for other people's debt service in addition to our own?" she said. "And that's supposed to be fair? This is something that should take longer to determine and not jump on us."

Young was sympathetic. "The proposal that went forward, I recognize, is not popular," he replied. "Somebody has to pay it. At the end of the day, we still have a deficit."

He also stressed that the plan isn't set in stone, and the County Commissioners have about six more weeks to figure it out before the fiscal 2026 budget is finalized in June.

Still, a rate hike remains the leading option to pay down the deficit and bring revenue in line with what it actually costs to operate and maintain wastewater treatment plants, Young added. Officials could also use money from the general fund to pay off the debt, or source new grant funding.

County leaders note the problem didn't happen on their watch but was the years-long result of sewerage districts not charging enough in user fees to handle mounting expenses, then borrowing from cash reserves in other districts to cover losses.

Officials were unaware of funds being comingled until last year, when they learned reserves from the flush West Ocean City enterprise fund had been continually tapped to cover operating losses.

It gets even more complicated, Young explained, when accounting for how each of the service areas offers different services and operate on different rate structures. "The accounting can be a bit of a nightmare," he said.

Rising annual expenses are also a problem. Costs for plant operations, maintenance, and utilities have all risen by roughly a third in recent years, Young said.

The County Commissioners ultimately decided to transfer \$9.2 million from the general fund to cover the total losses across the enterprise funds.

Of that, \$3 million was a no-strings grant to the out-of-service Riddle Farm plant, which has incurred deep debt by trucking its effluent to Ocean Pines. That plant should be back online later this year.

As for pricing in other sewerage districts, county leaders hosted additional information session for them this past week. The final meeting, for the Bridgetown district, is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the St. Paul UME Church in Berlin.



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# Main Street to close for live music, market

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2025) The start of event season in Berlin is here, as the town prepares for two of its springtime staples this weekend.

Sunday, May 2, marks the Berlin Farmers Market's first day back after the winter-long hiatus. The weekly market crowds downtown Berlin each Sunday from May through October, as vendors sell and display produce, baked goods, seafood, meat, and more.

According to the Town of Berlin's website, the weekly event yields over 50 farmers, food cultivators, bakers, distillers, seafood sellers, and meat vendors. Available products include peaches and blueberries from Bennett Orchards, honey from BayBees Farm, flowers from Assateague Farm,

locally grown produce from Bratten Farm, Cross Farms, and Splendid Earth Acres Farm, in season fruit and mushroom logs from Goat Plum Tree Farm, locally grown mushrooms from The Bay Mushrooms Farm, beeswax products from 6 Kings Farm, goat milk items and hand-made wool products from Marshall Creek Farm, and items from Berlin Bison Ranch, Carniola Farm, Elf Enchanted Garden, Foxhound Farm, Dream Catcher Homestead, Reinke Lavender Farm, Sacred Sowings Collective, and Quinton's Quality Products at Truitt Farm.

This season, the beloved Berlin Farmers Market will also feature locally made mead from the Buzz Meadery, Mandala Pies, teas from Little Green Witch Apothecary, Cast 26 Coffee Roasters, Baked Dessert

Café, soy candles from Honey Water Candles, Mother Flowers, the Street Kitchen's food truck, the Berlin Beer Company, the Berlin Cafe / Berlin Macaron Co., the Bleached Butterfly, Beached Begonias, Burley Oak Brewery, Boulangerie Gluten Free Bakery at The Inn Berlin, Forgotten 50 Distilling, Mary Fiore Photography, Skillegalee Seafood, and 2nd Wave Coffee, among others.

The Berlin Farmers Market begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m., rain or shine, each Sunday until autumn. The event includes a petting farm from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and live music funded by a Worcester County Arts Council grant.

"I am very excited, and so is my household, about this coming weekend because it's farmers market weekend," Councilwoman Shaneka

Nichols said at the April 28 Berlin Mayor and Council Meeting. "...We are looking forward to the new editions."

Berlin's annual Jazz, Blues, Wine and Brews event, sponsored by the chamber of commerce, is also back this weekend, kicking off at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 3.

The lineup will feature the Baione Quartet from 10:30 a.m. to noon, The Tribe Band from noon to 1:30 p.m., The Boneshakers from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., Swamp Dog from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Stephen Harvey Octet from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Local beer, wine, mead, and spirits will also be available. Alcohol sales will end at 5 p.m. The event is free to attend. Outside coolers are prohibited, and pets are welcome but must be leashed.



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# Wallace outlines vision for local schools as new leader

By Tara Fischer  
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2025) Annette Wallace was announced as the next superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools last week, replacing predecessor Lou Taylor. The appointment marks Wallace as the first woman to hold the position in Worcester.

The announcement was made on April 24 at a special Worcester County Board of Education meeting. Wallace graduated from Snow Hill High School, served as a math teacher at Stephen Decatur High School, became an assistant principal and then principal at Pocomoke High School, and accepted a position as chief operating officer in 2018.

According to a press release issued by the school system earlier this month announcing Wallace as a finalist, the new superintendent holds degrees in mathematics, school leadership, and educational leadership. As the PHS principal, Wallace doubled AP enrollment and improved student pass rates. She also launched Project 100, an initiative to increase access to postsecondary education.

Wallace's appointment follows the position-holder, Lou Taylor's retirement announcement in January, ef-

fective June 30. Taylor was named the school system leader in 2016. He signed a second four-year contract in 2020, but opted not to renew this year. The first female to take on the role will step up at the end of this school year, following Taylor's last day.

Worcester County Board of Education President Todd Ferrante said that

around 10 p.m. on April 23, the board held a closed session to conduct final interviews for the superintendent vacancy. Wallace was selected to take on the role.

"This will be effective July 1, when [Taylor] steps down," Ferrante said. "The motion was made by William Gordy and seconded by William Buchanan. The motion carried a 6-1 vote with Katie Addis opposed."

Upon word of Taylor's retirement, the Worcester County Board of Education solicited input from the school system community to create a list of



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# Berlin looks to secure truck before tariffs

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2025) Berlin will issue a purchase order this week for a new vacuum truck to avoid anticipated price hikes due to steep tariffs to be implemented by the Trump Administration.

At a Monday, April 28 meeting of the Berlin Town Council, the municipality unanimously approved the purchase of a Vaccon Aeroboost Vacuum System Truck at a total cost not to exceed \$624,000.

Town of Berlin Wastewater Super-

intendent Jamey Latchum said that his team intends to issue a purchase order this week to “start the process” of obtaining a new truck, “due to the new tariffs.”

“If we do not do this now, it will be out of my budget by July 1,” Latchum said. “If they receive a PO this week, we’re good to go.”

The town’s current vac truck, which is utilized across water, sewer, and stormwater services, is around 17 years old, well past its expected useful life of 10 years. To keep up with maintenance, the vehicle has started

to cost the town money.

“I feel it’s time for us to get a new truck,” Latchum said. “I just don’t want something to happen catastrophically to that one, so we can get a new one in here and keep moving forward.”

A Trump Administration plan is expected to yield a 20% tariff impact. According to Councilman Steve Green, this implementation would increase the vac truck cost by around \$125,000, hence the town’s expediency in securing the new vehicle.

“We want to try to lock it in so we

can save,” Green said.

The new vac truck was initially publicly discussed at an April 21 utility budget work session. The spending plan details that the cost of the truck will be split between the water and sewer funds, around \$325,000 each.

At the April 21 meeting, Latchum said the original truck was purchased in 2009 for \$270,000. Last week, the wastewater superintendent was quoted \$623,975 for the same vehicle, only upgraded.


See TOWN Page 18

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## Town needs new vacuum truck

Continued from Page 16

The new vehicle is a vital purchase, and the town hopes that by issuing a purchase order this week, they will steer clear of the increased price due to the proposed tariffs. According to Berlin staff, the truck has been on the docket for some time.

"This piece of equipment was discussed for the past several years," Berlin Finance Director Natalie Saleh said at last week's budget work session.

"Water services are in great need of that. We were not able to place an order even during COVID. The price

has gone up tremendously over the past couple of years. We are placing that because it is a must-have item for water services ... If we don't proceed with that, we are not sure if we are even going to touch that amount next year."

While the vac truck is utilized across water, sewer, and stormwater services, the water and sewer funds will bear the cost of the equipment. This is because the stormwater fund is smaller than water and sewer, coming in at just over \$1 million compared to water's \$5.7 million and sewer's \$7.2 million.

## Stained glass window tour planned for Berlin May 10

(May 1, 2025) To highlight the long and unique history of the churches of Berlin, three downtown churches will welcome visitors to an "open house" tour of their buildings on Saturday, May 10 from 2 until 5 p.m. to learn about the stained-glass windows. Participants may begin at any of the three churches and then walk to the other churches and interact with a guide to view the exceptional glass artistry that enhances the buildings. The tour is free. Children are welcome.

Buckingham Presbyterian Church is one of the seven churches established in the 18th century by the founder of Presbyterianism in America, Reverend Francis Makemie. Several church buildings, all in close proximity of Berlin served as places of worship. Following the devastating fire in Berlin at the beginning of the 20th century, the current South Main Street building was constructed. Stunning stained-glass windows depict Bible stories and


See STAINED Page 20



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# Shore legislators requesting Moore veto solar energy bill

By Brian Shane  
Staff Writer

(May 2, 2025) Eastern Shore lawmakers have formally asked Gov. Wes Moore to veto a bill that would let the state override local zoning laws to approve solar energy projects.

The legislation, which would take effect July 1, gives the state’s Public Service Commission the final say, not municipalities or county governments, on the potential size and scope of large-scale solar farms in rural areas.

“If you do not take action to halt this legislation, we are going to have a destructive proliferation of solar projects on prime agricultural land,” Del. Chris Adams writes in the April 18 letter, signed on behalf of the General Assembly’s Eastern Shore delegation. The bloc includes four state senators and 12 delegates, including Adams.

“This a massive taking of land we depend upon for our livelihood as a region,” the letter concludes. “If this legislation is enacted, it will cause permanent devastation to our region’s industry, which is Agriculture.”

Lawmakers said the bill sets “unreasonable” requirements for solar power – like how local jurisdictions aren’t allowed to set their own laws or policies to prevent the construction of solar farms. Counties also cannot deny site plans for solar projects if developers meet all applicable requirements.

According to a state legislative analysis, the bill also says local jurisdictions must process site plan applications as a “permitted use” if the plans call for solar fields generating up to 5 megawatts of electricity.

In higher density or growth areas, solar fields generating more than 5 megawatts would be prohibited. On forest or agricultural land already marked for preservation, known as Priority Preservation Area, solar would be limited to 5% of such property.

Worcester County has about 195,000 acres of Priority Preservation land set aside, according to state map-

ping data. Last October, the Worcester County Commissioners rejected a proposed 35-acre solar farm on the edge of Berlin. Officials cited the county’s zoning law which prohibits solar farms on land zoned for residential use.

However, Maryland courts held in 2019 that the state’s Public Service Commission gets the final say on the siting of utility-scale projects, preempting local zoning.

The solar power struggle has been ongoing for months, as state officials and leaders of Maryland’s 23 counties had been working ahead of the 2025 Legislative Session to find a compromise, according to Worcester County Administrator Weston Young.

“It’s been a roller coaster,” he said. “What we have in the final bill seemed to be a whole lot closer to what was negotiated before the session. It’s not necessarily in the county’s best interest, but compared to how things were going, we have to take it. We have to view it as a win because the alternatives were far worse.”

To meet its goal of sourcing 50% of energy from renewables by 2030, state officials hope to put solar panels on tens of thousands of acres statewide. Young said the downside is that it’s far cheaper to install solar farms on the Eastern Shore than in the more populated counties that want and need them more.

Indeed, the lawmakers in their veto request letter said they’d never contemplated that “such a damaging burden would be placed on the Eastern Shore” to meet the state’s ambitious renewable energy goals.

“The state needs solar, needs housing, and then they want green space – all three of those conflict,” Young said. “If you take a farm field and you turn it into solar, that’s not really preserving it. If you make it housing, that’s not green energy. What do you do? I don’t think they’ve ever sat down to say, what is a reasonable compromise around the goals they have.”

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# Carozza seeks offshore wind ‘stop orders’ for OC project

By Stewart Dobson  
Editor

(May 1, 2025) State Sen. Mary Beth Carozza (R-38) has called on the Interior Department to order the immediate shutdown of US Wind’s offshore wind project off the coast of Ocean City.

In a request sent to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, Carozza called for a halt in the construction of the Ocean City wind farm just as Burgum did last week to a massive wind project off the coast of Long Island, New York.

In that instance, Burgum said the suspension of work would give the department time to “further review ... information that suggests the Biden administration rushed through its approval without sufficient analysis,” the New York Times reported.

Seeing an opportunity, apparently, Carozza is attempting to see if the administration’s position on offshore wind energy extends this far south.

“As the state senator representing Ocean City, which is Maryland’s only ocean beach town in the state, I join with my Maryland constituents in calling on the federal government and requesting an immediate halt to the continuation of US Wind’s Offshore

Wind Project off Maryland’s Coast,” Carozza said.

In her request, Carozza said the conclusions of an environmental impact study by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management were insufficient and weakened the case for Maryland’s offshore wind energy project.

She noted that while public comment was taken during hearings on the project, multiple concerns were never addressed. BOEM conceded in its report that many of those concerns are valid, referring to them as “unavoidable adverse impacts” that could be detectable, measurable, of severe intensity, and long-lasting or permanent,” she said.

“Offshore wind energy development is the most expensive way to generate electricity, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has failed to show that offshore wind energy generation is in the best interests of the community and of Maryland ratepayers,” Carozza said. “Further, BOEM’s own report on US Wind’s offshore wind energy project highlights multiple negative impacts on the environment off Maryland’s Coast.”

See OFFSHORE Page 20

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# Snapshots



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## NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

The Ocean City Berlin Optimist welcome new members at their April Dinner Meeting on April 4. Pictured, from left, President Christina Dolomount-Brown, Marie Noel Sayan, Optimist Vice President Jill Anthony and sponsored new member Paula Bandini, and Membership Chairman Roger Pacella.



PHOTO COURTESY LISA COOK

Pictured, from left, after an unveiling of the official Dr. Mary Humphreys Arboretum signage at the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum are Council members Jack Orris and Shaneka Nichols, Museum President Melissa Reid and Councilman Steve Green.

# Museum kicks off pig roast with arboretum dedication

(May 1, 2025) The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum last Sunday celebrated the official designation of its grounds as the Dr. Mary Humphreys Arboretum. The designation makes the lawn of the museum, which contains several significant trees, the first arboretum in Worcester County.

The arboretum’s new signage was celebrated at the beginning of the third annual pig roast on Sunday, April 27. The event, sponsored by Burley Building Company, featured brews from the Berlin Beer Company and live music.

The official sign designating the Taylor House as an arboretum allows the public to see a variety of trees.

Dr. Mary Humphreys, who lived on Baker Street before her passing in 2009, was dedicated to science and an early backer and researcher for the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum. The arboretum’s namesake also founded

the Humphreys Foundation to offer financial aid to local charities, schools, and nonprofits.

“Humphreys was one of [the museum’s] earliest supporters,” Taylor House Museum President Melissa Reid said in a recent interview. “She was a very noted historian in Berlin and was integral in founding the museum. Because of her biology connection, we felt it was appropriate [the arboretum] to be named after her.”

The arboretum was officially announced in 2022, making the Taylor House the first property in Worcester County to carry the classification. The facility’s lawn contains many significant trees, notably a sycamore called “The Healing Tree.”

Reid and Berlin Council members Steve Green, Shaneka Nichols and Jack Orris officially unveiled new signage on the property detailing the arboretum designation.



## ESSAY WINNER

The Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club sponsored the 2025 Optimist International Essay Contest. This year’s first place winner was awarded \$500 and moves on to the district level competition for the opportunity for \$2,500 scholarship opportunity. Pictured, from left, are Optimist President Chris Dolomount-Brown, first place winner Stephen Decatur High School student Paige DuPont, and Stephen Decatur Middle Media Specialist and Essay Chairman Cheryl Brown.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE



## CLUB DONATION

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City recently donated \$2,500 to Diakonia, the local homeless shelter located in West Ocean City. Above, Diakonia Executive Director Ken Argot receives the donation from Kiwanis Club President Tom Southwell after serving as the meeting’s guest speaker about the organization’s dire need for expansion.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# Stained glass tour announced

Continued from Page 17

verses.

Stevenson Methodist Church continues the tradition of Methodism that began on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in the early 1770s. The congregation built a larger church on North Main Street in 1912. Recently restored stained-glass windows beautifully depict the life of Jesus.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church this year celebrates 200 years on its current Church Street site. The original building was red brick with a traditional steeple. After the devastating fire of 1904, major renovations occurred including painting the brick white and replacing the steeple with a bell tower.

Clear palladium windows were installed and later replaced by stained-glass windows, many of which were dedicated to individuals, towards the end of the 20th century.

Stained-glass window tour participants can begin the free tour at any of the three churches. Guides will welcome visitors and answer questions at each church. Parking is available at Buckingham Presbyterian on South Main Street and at St. Paul’s Episcopal on Church Street.

Additional parking is available at the Berlin Fire Company. Churches have restrooms. Light refreshments will be available. For handicapped accessibility questions, contact each church.

# Offshore wind project halt eyed

Continued from Page 19

In her letter to Burgum, Carozza urged swift action.

“I appreciate President Trump’s Executive Order to halt the issuance of new offshore wind lease areas and your letter to BOEM on April 16, 2025 to continue reviewing ongoing offshore wind energy permits. However, the developers of wind energy projects are working overtime to rush through all permit applications on previously leased sections in the belief that they can claim the right to continue the pursuit of construction and operation,” she wrote. “... I am respectfully requesting that the federal government take immediate action to issue ‘Stop Orders’ to give time for adequate and unbiased reconsideration of the many concerns that have so far gone unaddressed and to include a halt to the MOU between Ocean City’s watermen, the DNR, and US Wind.”

Also this week, Sonny Gwin, president of the Waterman’s Association of Worcester County, expressed optimism on Ocean 98’s Rude Awakening Show that the federal action in New York might be repeated here.

# Snapshots



**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**  
Gina Shaffer, pictured in the center holding scissors, celebrated the relocation of Shaffer Law Office to Cathell Road in Ocean Pines with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, April 17th. Friends, family, and the Worcester County Chamber of Commerce were present.  
SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## STUDENTS INDUCTED

Students from Worcester County recently inducted into the Delta Gamma chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma at Wor-Wic Community College are shown in the front row, from left, Juliana Brown, Morelia Camacho-Arriola and Lizardo Chuez. In the back row, from left, are Jessica Cropper, Isabel Hernandez-Weber and William Melgar.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

## SKILLSUSA DONATION

The Marlin Club Crew of Ocean City recently made a donation to support the Worcester Tech High School's SkillsUSA trip this summer. Twenty-eight students plus advisors and chaperones will be attending the National SkillsUSA competition in Georgia this June. The donation will help fund the trip and expenses. Pictured, from left, are Laverne Cray, vice principal of WTHS; Raye Simpson vice president of Marlin Club Crew of OC; Richard Stephens, advisor for SkillsUSA; and Crystal Bunting, advisor for SkillsUSA.



**RIBBON CUTTING**  
The Worcester County Commissioners and the Heather Leigh and Christopher Robbin Hill Foundation cut the ribbon on the new STEM-themed playground equipment at the Newtown Park in Pocomoke on April 16. Worcester County contracted with Cunningham Recreation to install play structures across 5,400 square feet of play space. Inclusive components are used in the play structures that allow children of all abilities to play and adults of varying ages and abilities to actively engage with their children. Funding for the playground was made possible thanks to a generous \$450,000 donation from the Hill Foundation.  
SUBMITTED PHOTO/ BAYSIDE GAZETTE

# Opinion

Please send all letters and other editorial submissions to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday.

## Water, sewer rates another fine mess

It's another fine mess the Worcester County Commissioners have gotten themselves into, and now they have little choice but to make another mess getting out of it.

That mess would be the millions of dollars in debt on the books in some of county's water and sewer district accounts, which are legally required to break even as "enterprise funds."

Enterprise funds, for those who haven't heard those words repeated hundreds of times in the past several weeks, are independent accounts governments use to track the finances of operations that sell services to the public and are run like standalone businesses. Like sanitary districts, for instance.

The problem here is that the user fees the county charges haven't come close to covering the costs in some districts, and now the commissioners want every customer in every district to cover this debt. This is even though service areas such as Ocean Pines have kept their accounts current and have had nothing to do with other districts' difficulties.

Ocean Pines residents and officials are, understandably, upset by the prospect of having to pay higher sewer and water rates to fix somebody's else's problem. The Ocean Pines voting districts' two commissioners are howling about it as well, but from the point of view of the five other commissioners this one-for-all, all-for-one approach makes sense.

They don't answer to Ocean Pines voters and therefore face little political risk by tapping into its large base of sanitary service users to reduce the amount owed by sewer and water customers in the areas they do represent.

It's pretty simple — and wholly unfair. Nevertheless, there are no politically or financially harmless ways to repay this debt, because the customers in some service areas are too few or financially less able to pay for the services they receive.

If each service area has to pay for its own usage, as has been proposed, not all of them are going to make it. And then, exceptions will have to be made, and tax dollars spent to make up the difference.

## Lynch remembered for Berlin service

Councilman suggests new road name at Heron Park as honor

**By Tara Fischer**  
Staff Writer

(May 1, 2025) The Town of Berlin said goodbye to Paula Lynch this week, a retired, longtime councilwoman, who passed away after a brief illness at the age of 89 on Friday, April 25.

Lynch served 26 years on the Berlin Town Council, from 1988 to 2014. A moment of silence was taken in her honor at the Berlin Mayor and Council's Monday, April 28 meeting, and a few members of the municipality's governing body shared kind words about the late councilwoman.

Dean Burrell, council vice president, noted that he had the privilege of serving with Lynch "for several years."

"She was a splendid representative of our town," Burrell said. "One knowledgeable, one able, one always informed. I am saddened by her passing, but I am elated to be able to say to the public that she was a wonderful lady."

Councilmember Steve Green also shared a few memories of Lynch, who was a founding business manager and bookkeeper at Worcester Country School, now Worcester Preparatory School.

"Talk about a firecracker, but someone with a heart of gold," Green said.

The councilman added that an early memory he has

of Lynch was as a junior in high school planning the prom, specifically booking bands for the dance as a student at Worcester Prep.

"Everyone had to go into her office to talk about money," Green said. "We had a band quote for \$500, she put it on speaker and she was going, 'go down, it's gotta be down lower, \$500, no way.' And we got them down to \$300. She brought that through her whole life. She had a charm about her. She was a little harsh on the outside at times, but on the inside, I thought she had a heart of gold."

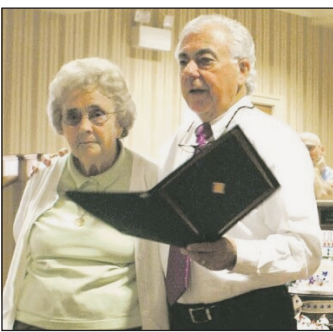
Green proposed that the new road planned at Heron Park be named Lynch Lane, or something similar, in honor of the former councilwoman. Green acknowledged that many deserve the recognition but asked the governing group to consider the distinction when the time is right in the future.

"I just want it to be considered," he said. "We don't need to make a decision this early, but I think it's fitting ... I think it would be a nice tribute for her."

Councilman Jay Knerr added that he, too, "had a good rapport" with Lynch.

"I knew her for a long time," he said. "She was the one who encouraged me to run for council, so I very much appreciated our discussions over the years."

Knerr noted that his memories of Lynch also extend



SUBMITTED PHOTO/BAYSIDE GAZETTE

**At a farewell event in 2014, then-County Commissioner Bud Church read a proclamation recognizing Paula Lynch's 26 years served on the town council.**

back to his days as a parent at the private school.

"My first interaction with her was that I hadn't paid my Worcester Prep tuition," the council member said. "It was two days late, and she called me, and it was like dealing with the IRS ... it never happened again. She was great."

Lynch was initially elected to the council in 1988. Her final meeting was in October 2014, 26 years later.

Berlin tourism grew during Lynch's 26-year tenure, beginning with an Atlantic Hotel renovation that kicked off a renaissance of the old, historic town. In the spring of 2014, Budget Travel named Berlin "America's Coolest Small Town." According to a 2014 article from The Dispatch announcing Lynch's final meeting, the councilwoman said that she saw the Budget Travel designation coming.

"Long before everybody

See OFFICIALS Page 23

BAYSIDE

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## Flags For Heroes eyes May 17 return

(May 1, 2025) The Berlin/Ocean City Rotary Club along with the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation announced "Flags For Heroes" will be returning to Veterans Memorial Park May 17.

The annual display of flags honoring many different kinds of "heroes" will fly from May 17, Armed Forces Day, thru July 4.

You can be a part of this beautiful display by sponsor-

ing a flag for any hero in your life. Many flags each year honor veterans, first responders, parents, teachers, doctors and siblings.

Each flag will have a medallion attached with the name of the "Hero" and Sponsor. Medallions may be removed at any time and kept as a reminder of the person you have honored. There will be a locator map at the flag display to help you find your sponsored flag.

The fee for each flag sponsored is \$50. Sponsor forms are available on the Veterans Memorial website: [www.WoCoVets.org](http://www.WoCoVets.org).

Flags for Heroes supports the educational outreach programs of the Veterans Memorial and Rotary Scholarships.

The deadline for ordering a flag is May 12.

For further information, contact Marie Gilmore, at [OPMarie@aol.com](mailto:OPMarie@aol.com), or call 410-726 2881.

# Obituaries

## PAULA H. LYNCH

Berlin

Paula H. Lynch, wife, mother and notable local resident, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 89 on Friday, April 25, 2025, in Berlin.

Born in Baltimore before making her way to the Eastern Shore, she was the daughter of the late Paul Reinhart Hassencamp and Catherine (Wheatley) Hassencamp.

Paula was a graduate of Roland Park Country School's Class of 1953, where she was a member of the school's field hockey team. She then attended Goucher College, earning a bachelor's degree in education before teaching history at Towson High School. Paula met her husband of 69 years, Franklin, at the Phillips Beach Plaza on the boardwalk in Ocean City when the two worked summer desk clerk jobs. They married on December 27, 1955, and after some time moved to Snow Hill in Worcester County.

## Officials recall Lynch memories

Continued from Page 22

else figured it out, I always knew Berlin was the coolest small town in America," she said. "It's been a pleasure, and it's been a lot of fun. I'll take a lot of great memories from my time on the council."

The 2014 article from The Dispatch described Lynch as "the fiscal watchdog on the council" and someone with a "reputation for closely watching expenditures, counting pennies and keeping an eye on the books."

This characteristic was on full display during her final meeting over 10 years ago as the governing team reviewed a contract for a sidewalk project on Tripoli Street. The 2014 report noted that after learning of the successful low bid of Worth Construction for the project, Lynch asked where the money was coming from in the town budget.

"I don't see it anywhere in this year's budget," she said at the time. "It's just one of my things. I just want to make sure we can pay for it."

Lynch was assured that the sidewalk expenditure was in the budget.

Green said this week that her tenacity and money-conscious mind continued after her elected service. Green recounted an instance last year when she questioned the absence of a line item in the town's proposed budget. He said her diligence and attention to detail was part of her fabric.

Lynch had attended over 600 meetings, or two meetings a month for 12 months a year, when she retired from the council in 2014.

A funeral service will be held for Lynch on Friday, May 2 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin. A visitation will take place one hour prior.



Paula Lynch

In 1970, Paula took on the role of Business Manager of Worcester Preparatory School (then Worcester Country School). She was integral to the early success of the school, supporting its founding through her efforts behind the scenes including answering phones, completing paperwork, and overseeing construction permits and approvals. She served Worcester Prep diligently for over 50 years, earning the school's Worcester Honors Service Award before her retirement in June 2021.

Paula's service didn't end with her work at Worcester Prep. In 1988, after relocating from Snow Hill to Berlin, Paula won an at-large seat on Berlin's Town Council. Often praised for her sound judgement and fair business sense, she served her community through her council seat for 26 years before her retirement in 2014.

Paula's presence was defined by her quick wit, no-nonsense style, and steadfast commitment to her work and community. This commitment was matched only by her dedication to her family. She is survived by her husband, Franklin Lynch, and two daughters, Sarah Lynch, and Jennifer

Lynch.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, May 2, 2025, at 3:00PM, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin. A visitation will take place one hour prior to the service. Interment will immediately follow at St. Paul's Episcopal Churchyard. Letters of condolence can be sent to the family via [www.burbagefuneralhome.com](http://www.burbagefuneralhome.com). Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Worcester Preparatory School, 508 South Main Street, Berlin, Md. 21811.

## JOHN JOSEPH URICK

West Ocean City

John Joseph Urick, known fondly to friends and family as John or Pop, passed away peacefully on April 26, 2025 in the home he built for his family in West Ocean City, Maryland.

He was surrounded by his three daughters and loving wife of 58 years. Born on February 8, 1948, at Geisinger Hospital in Danville, Penn-



John Urick

Continued on Page 25

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# Puzzles

DOUBLE VISION

BY VICTOR SCHMITT AND TRACY BENNETT / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Victor Schmitt, of Grand Rapids, Mich., is a fourth-year student at the University of Michigan, majoring in computer science. He's a founder of the Games section at The Michigan Daily, the student newspaper. This is his second puzzle for The Times. Tracy Bennett, of Ann Arbor, is a digital puzzles editor at The Times. They met last winter when Tracy visited the Games staff to speak. — W.S.

ACROSS

1 Van Winkle of folklore

4 Engages in playful fisticuffs

9 Italian restaurant frequently seen in food courts

15 Strip for breakfast

20 Game with a Reverse card

21 Impressive display

22 Suggest

23 "I might surprise you"

24 "\_\_\_ all good"

25 Group that Tiger hires to install wall art?

28 Out of shape

30 Frets

31 \_\_\_-fisted

32 Corduroy fabric feature

33 Thinks out loud

35 Train

38 First game of the season

40 It smells

41 Send fan mail en masse to a Monty Python production?

44 Begrudged

46 Zippo

47 Creeping Charlie, e.g.

48 \_\_\_ Ross House (Philadelphia landmark)

49 Honcho

53 Mob enforcer

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

55 Dam near the Philae Temple of Isis

59 Hands-on business

60 Angry early president can be seen now in TV footage?

64 Med. benefit option, in brief

65 Divides

67 Leggy shorebird

68 Captain Jean-\_\_\_ Picard

69 Really stands out

70 Go beyond the opponent's baseline, in tennis

73 Sound-asleep sounds

76 Objective

78 Like Tommy in the Who's 1969 rock opera

79 Common file extension

81 Set off

83 MGM founder Marcus

84 Like, in slang

85 Hotheaded liberal politico who's eager to hear?

89 "You \_\_\_ me at hello"

92 Ugly expression

94 Laser-therapy target

95 Roasted or grilled, in Spanish

96 Liver spot?

98 Food for a woodpecker

100 Drain

102 Smitten person's declaration

104 Pharmacist comes through for customers?

110 Kind of column

111 Hang around

112 Plant that was a Top 5 girl's name in the 1970s

113 Sign up for again

115 Word on some Renaissance Faire signage

116 Consideration for Cy Young Award voters, for short

118 Mother of Perseus

120 Recover from fainting

122 Editor's strike?

127 Young boxer, say

128 Some Surrealist paintings

129 What very punctual people arrive on

130 Wildly silly

131 Portfolio piece, for short

132 C-suite figures

133 Subject of a negotiation

134 Territories

135 Jellied fish in an English dish

11 "\_\_\_ so?"

12 Offensive linemen, for short

13 Friend on "Friends"

14 \_\_\_ vez (again, in Spanish)

15 Start of a tangent, in a text

16 Makeup of some metallic bonds

17 Title protagonist of an 1897 Edmond Rostand play

18 Serving at a breakfast buffet

19 More up-to-the-minute

26 Unites

27 Play for the camera, say

29 Gives the (pink) slip

34 Go on a spree

36 Bud

37 It's quite gripping

39 Song of thanksgiving

40 Globes

42 \_\_\_ apple

43 Cops (to)

45 Juvenile locust

50 They hang around a lot

51 One-eyed Norse god

52 Ginkgo \_\_\_ (tree species)

54 Frying need

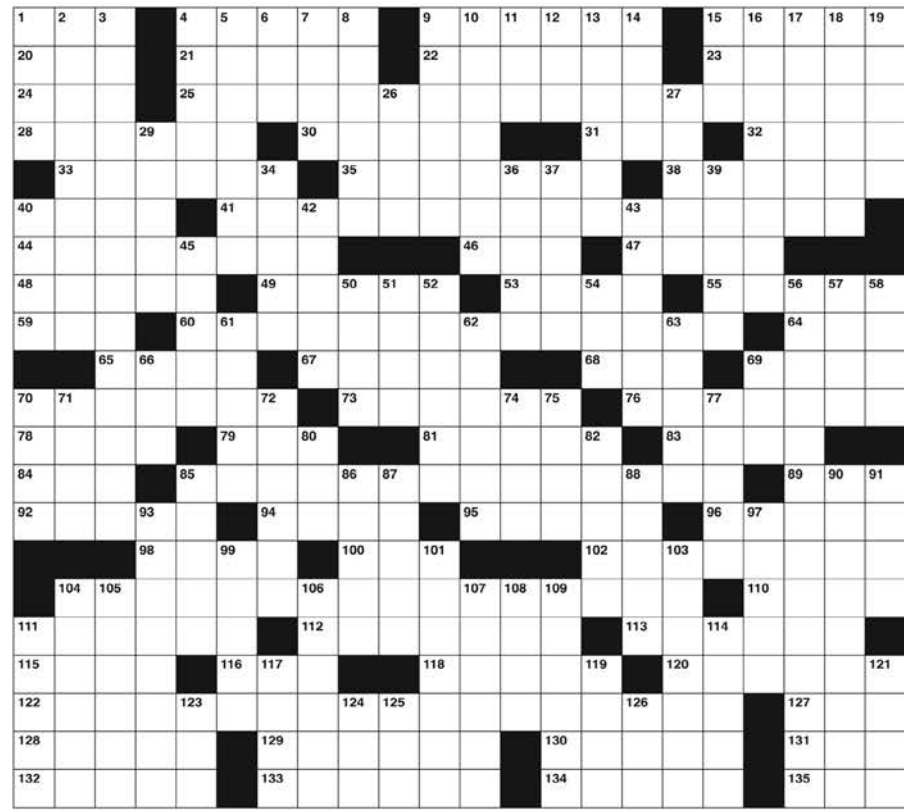
56 "Suh-weet! I love this sandwich cookie!"?

57 Music boxes?

58 Prominent feature of 17-Down

61 One might start "Incidentally ..."

62 "\_\_\_ Nona" (children's book based on a folk tale)



- 63 Eye: Prefix

66 Pound sound

69 Safety goggles, masks, etc., in brief

70 They're short for a favorite

71 Blood line

72 Common salad add-in

74 Big heads

75 Long tale

77 "Fear Factor" host Joe

80 Public health org.

82 Low point
- 85 Peach or plum, botanically

86 Come after

87 Anne of classic comedy

88 One trying to level up, often

90 Thrill-seeker's pursuit

91 It is done

93 Like much tax law or ancient philosophy

97 Nursery sight

99 Got it wrong

101 Little flap, maybe
- 103 Support line?

104 Weapon similar to a halberd

105 Brain twister

106 Cuban dance style

107 "Drunken Sailor," e.g.

108 Wrestler-turned-actor John

109 RNA base

111 Singer with the 2021 hit album "Solar Power"
- 114 Hanker (for)

117 "Dagnabbit!"

119 Where the giant Enceladus is buried, in myth

121 Gem sometimes confused with a moonstone

123 Twisty curve

124 Abbr. on a business card

125 Rocky Mountain state: Abbr.

126 Actor Somerhalder

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

HARD - 88

Fill in the blank spaces in the grid so that every vertical column, every horizontal row and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, without repeating any. There is really only one solution to each puzzle.

4 9 7 2 5 3 8 6 1

5 8 1 9 7 6 3 4 2

3 2 6 1 8 4 5 9 7

6 3 2 4 9 8 7 1 5

1 7 8 6 3 5 9 2 4

9 5 4 7 1 2 6 3 8

7 4 9 5 6 1 2 8 3

2 6 3 8 4 7 1 5 9

8 1 5 3 2 9 4 7 6

1 7

6

6 1 7 5

5 3 6 8

2

4 9

4 1 6

1 7

Answers to last week's puzzles

LEAD DOGS

AUDIO JACK

PROCESSIONS

COPE

APT

TOETAP

PROTESTANT

RODEBY

RIPON

EMINEM

CONTRACTORS

AUTO

PTA

CONFESION

POLLS

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CONVOCATION

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NODSAT

OTOOLE

CONCESSIONS

PODIA

SSN

KIDFLASH

LONELY

ANTAGONIST

IGNOREIT

CHIMP

TAOOFPOOH

PROTRACTORS

DRINKYPOO

RAIN

OGRES

SEMPERFI

MATRIX

SEMIS

PROVOCATION

LOOKIE

YONDER

SSRI

TOWIT

ONCOLOGY

PLO

ADIEU

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GOSSIP

RATSO

PENNEY

TWO

MARYI

TONYSTARK

TEDTALKS

# Obituaries

Continued from Page 23  
sylvania to the late Paul Urick and Pearl (Varney) Urick. John's life was a beautiful tapestry woven with his unwavering love for his family, his passion for the great outdoors and his Catholic faith.

John's early life growing up on a family farm in Irish Valley, Shamokin, Pennsylvania laid the foundation for a lifetime of hard work, dedication and the secrets of enjoying life through the outdoors.

He was a retired real estate broker and was the owner of John J. Urick Real Estate in West Ocean City. His honest integrity was well known by the community and anyone that had the pleasure of being a client. John was passionate about hunting and was one of the first hunter safety instructors in the area. A true outdoorsman, he found joy and peace in the woods and on the water. Hunting, fishing, and spending time under open skies were not just hobbies for him-they were a way of life.

He taught those he loved, to respect nature, to find patience in a quiet morning, and to appreciate the simple beauty of the world around them. He was a member of St. Mary's Holy Savior Catholic Parish. John's legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the lessons he taught, and the countless memories.

John is survived by his wife, Linda Tyndall Urick; three daughters,

Michelle Webster and husband Jeff of West Ocean City, Christine Urick and fiancé Tommy Joyner of Pittsville and Stephanie Urick of West Ocean City, MD; six grandchildren, Brooke Danielle Connell (Joseph), Aleczaider Vaughn Webster (Carrie), Zoie Lane Williams, Grace Korin Ellis (Thomas), Wyatt Kristopher Amsel and Vaughn Michael Amsel; four great-grandchildren, Abigail, Ashton, Aurora and Myles; three brothers, Vince (Sue) Urick of Paxinos, Pa., Steve (Cindy) Urick of Birdsboro, Pa. and Richard (Maria) Urick of Elysburg, Pa.; three sisters, Christine (Randy) Yasenchak of Paxinos, Pa., Maureen (Bob) Hauck of Sunbury, Pa. and Ann (Ted) Hittle of Danville, Pa.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Paul Urick (survived by Judy Urick).

He will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on in the hearts of all who were privileged to know him.

A Catholic Mass will be held at 11:00 am on Monday, May 5, at Holy Savior Catholic Church 1705 Philadelphia Ave. Ocean City. A reception following the Mass will be held in the church hall.

A visitation will be held one hour before the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor John's memory by spending time outdoors, teaching a child to fish or simply sharing a long story with loved ones.

Condolences may be sent by visiting [www.bishophastingsfh.com](http://www.bishophastingsfh.com)

## DAVID EDWARD MCALLISTER

Ocean Pines

David Edward McAllister, 80, of Ocean Pines, Maryland, passed away on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.



David McAllister

Born and raised in the farming community of Laurel, Delaware, he was the son of former Sussex County Sheriff Harry McAllister and Pearl Callaway McAllister. For 55 years, he was married to Lynne Yoder McAllister of Wayne, Pennsylvania.

David proudly served in the US Army from 1965-1967 as part of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's S2

Intelligence Unit stationed in Vietnam. After the war, he returned to college on the GI Bill and graduated from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He later founded a successful manufacturer's representative agency selling truck components to OEMs and distributors throughout the Northeast.

After raising their family in the suburbs of Philadelphia, he and Lynne retired to their dream house on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.




A loving husband and father, David

was also a great friend to many people whose lives he touched deeply. He will be remembered for his kindness and generosity, as well as his friendly smile and easygoing nature. But more than anything, he will be remembered for the joy and laughter he spread everywhere he went. From his unique catchphrases ("I'm going to live until I die") and devilish (but never mean-spirited) sense of humor, to his uncanny (and contest-winning) Elvis impersonation, David was always the life of the party.






In addition to his wife, David is survived by his children, Courtney McAllister Blair and Matthew McAllister; his daughter-in-law Stacey McAllister; and his grandchildren Beck Blair, Ryan McAllister, McAllister Blair, and Harper McAllister. David was preceded in death by his brother Bob and sister Jean.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 4 p.m. at The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin, Maryland. The family will receive visitors for one hour prior to the service from 3pm to 4pm. In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in David's name to the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit offering services to military veterans. Arrangements are in the care of The Burbage Funeral Home.

Condolences may be shared with the family via [www.burbagefuneralhome.com](http://www.burbagefuneralhome.com).




# OPEN HOUSES



May 1 - 8

DAY/TIME	ADDRESS	BR/BA	STYLE	PRICE	AGENT/AGENCY
Fri-Mon 11am-4pm	Heron Harbour, 120th St., Bayside	1BR/2BR/3BR/4BR+	Condos, Towns & SF	-	Nanette Pavier/Holiday Real Estate
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd., West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Friday Noon-2pm	10300 Coastal Hwy. #1802, Ocean City	Studio	Condo	\$269,000	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Friday 1-3pm	13 91st St. #305 Tahitian Sun, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$374,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 10am-Noon	58 Chatham Court	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$439,000	Nikki Rayne Rose/Keller Williams Realty
Saturday 10am-1pm	103 125th Street Unit 105, Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$529,000	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	9 Edgewood Drive, Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$414,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	101 123rd Street #375C, Ocean City	1BR/1BA	Condo	\$252,900	Imad Elali/Long & Foster Real Estate
Saturday 11am-1pm	12301 Jamaica Avenue, Ocean City #C209	1BR/1B	Condo	\$309,900	Rosemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1pm	13 91st St. #305 Tahitian Sun, Ocean City	2BR/1BA	Condo	\$374,900	Terry Miller/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-1:30pm	106 120th St. #603, Ocean City	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$404,900	Monica McNamara/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 11am-3pm	12430 Old Bridge Rd, West OC	2BR/2BA	Single Family	from \$284,750	Shelly Wilson/Salt Life Community
Saturday Noon-2pm	26 Gatehouse Trail Ocean Pines	3BR/2BA	Single Family	\$374,900	Power of 2 Team/Hileman Real Estate
Saturday 1:30-3:30pm	201 S. Heron Dr. Unit B22	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 1:30-3:30pm	13400 Coastal Highway Unit 203N, Ocean City	1BR/1BA		\$267,000	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Saturday 2-4pm	108 120th Street #39, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$309,500	Imad Elali/Long & Foster Real Estate
Sunday 10am-1pm	305 Seabay Lane Unit C7, Ocean City	4BR/3.5BA	Condo	\$779,900	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	201 S. Heron Dr. Unit B22	2BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$499,900	Nancy Reither/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 11am-1pm	8500 Coastal Highway #805 Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Condo	\$699,900	Rosemarie Leonard/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 1:30-3pm	103 125th Street Unit 105 Ocean City	3BR/2.5BA	Condo	\$529,000	Terri Moran/Coldwell Banker Realty
Sunday 2-4pm	18 41st Street #304, Ocean City	3BR/2BA	Condo	\$589,500	Imad Elali/Long & Foster Real Estate
Monday 9am-Noon	12024 Ocean Gateway Lot 20, Ocean City	2BR/2BA	Single Family	\$189,900	Imad Elali/Long & Foster Real Estate

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# Calendar

## Thurs., May 1

**35TH ANNUAL CRUISIN' OCEAN CITY**  
Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring more than 3,000 hot rods, customs, classics and trucks; music; celebrities; and more. Tickets: <https://specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city>. [infoevent@specialeventpro.com](mailto:infoevent@specialeventpro.com), 410-798-6304

**MICKY DOLENZ SONGS & STORIES**  
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, 7 p.m. The legendary lead singer and drummer of The Monkees. Tickets: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/64893601/micky-dolenz-of-the-monkeessongs-and-stories-ocean-city-oc-performing-arts-center>.

**CPAP MASK FITTING**  
Atlantic General Hospital's Sleep Diagnostic Center, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin. Free mask fitting clinic for patients who are having trouble adjusting to their CPAP equipment. Appointments are required: Robin Rohlfing, 410-641-9726.

**MUSEUM OF OCEAN CITY RIBBON CUTTING**  
Museum of Ocean City, 217 S. Baltimore Ave., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Welcome reception at 10:30 a.m., ribbon cutting at 11 a.m., followed by museum exploration. Free admission, interactive displays, historic photographs and engaging narratives. [www.ocmuseum.org](http://www.ocmuseum.org), 410-289-4991

**STORY TIME: CINCO DE MAYO**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10:30 a.m. Explore a new holiday and culture in today's story. There will be songs, dancing and crafts. For ages 2-5 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**PLAY TIME**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Join in for a variety of activities and toys. Play and socialize with other families. For ages 2-5 years. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**CHESS CLUB**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Looking for a quiet place to meet new friends and play some chess? Come to the library and bring your boards. All are welcome. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**MOVIE MATINEE**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 1 p.m. Kick off Beatles MAYnia with a movie. Light refreshments provided. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**PRAY FOR AMERICA - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**  
Front of City Hall, 301 Baltimore Ave., Ocean City. 12 p.m. Sponsored by O.C. Christian Ministers Association.

**POCOMOKE BOOK CLUB: 'ME BEFORE YOU' BY JOJO MOYES**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 2 p.m. Join in for a lively discussion each month. Stop by the Pocomoke Branch to pick up a copy in advance. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**LEI DAY**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. Learn a brief history of Lei Day in Hawaii while making silk ribbon leis to celebrate. Registration required: 410-208-4014. [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**MAGIC THE GATHERING**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Battle it out with sorcery, dragons and giants. Experienced and novice players welcome. BYOC recommended. For ages 12-18 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

## Fri., May 2

**35TH ANNUAL CRUISIN' OCEAN CITY**  
Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring more than 3,000 hot rods, customs, classics and trucks; music; celebrities; and more. Tickets: <https://specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city>. [infoevent@specialeventpro.com](mailto:infoevent@specialeventpro.com), 410-798-6304

**REND COLLECTIVE FOLK! TOUR**  
OC Performing Arts Center, 4001 Coastal Highway, 7-9:30 p.m. A celebration of joy, community, faith and authentic connection. Tickets cost \$29.25, \$46.20 and \$77.35. Tickets: <https://echoconcerts.com>. Info: 612-217-0151, [ticketssupport@echoconcerts.com](mailto:ticketssupport@echoconcerts.com).

**COFFEE WITH COPS CAR SHOW**  
Jay's Cafe & Trading Co., 2305 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, 9-11 a.m. Come meet Ocean City police officers, check out an awesome lineup of cars, or even show off your own wheels in the competition. For the whole family.

**SURVIVAL SPANISH: SER**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1 p.m. Learn how to say some basic phrases in Spanish. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**FREE COMIC BOOK DAY**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Drop by to pick up a free comic book

Please send calendar items to [editor@baysidegazette.com](mailto:editor@baysidegazette.com) by 5 p.m. Monday. All community-related activities will be published at no charge.

and design your own. While supplies last. For ages 6-18 years. 410-632-3495, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**OC MAHJONG CLUB**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Join in for a morning of playing tile Mahjong. Feel free to bring your own tile set. All adults are welcome. 410-524-1818, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**FIRST FRIDAY FOR MAY EXHIBITS**  
Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., 5-7 p.m. Meet the artists, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and see the new exhibits by a variety of local artists. Free event. All are welcome. <https://artleagueofoceancity.org>, 410-524-9433

**WINGS AND FRIES OR SHRIMP AND FRIES CARRYOUT**  
Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, 10709 Bishopville Road, 5-7 p.m. Chicken wings (hot and mild) and fries or shrimp poppers and fries. Cost is \$10 per choice. Pre-orders by April 30: 443-880-4944.

**KIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO**  
*Fridays* - Knights of Columbus, 9901 Coastal Highway, behind St. Luke's Church. Doors open at 5 p.m., bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Light snacks available before bingo and at intermission. 410-524-7994

## Sat., May 3

**35TH ANNUAL CRUISIN' OCEAN CITY**  
Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring more than 3,000 hot rods, customs, classics and trucks; music; celebrities; and more. Tickets: <https://specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city>. [infoevent@specialeventpro.com](mailto:infoevent@specialeventpro.com), 410-798-6304

**COLONIAL VILLAGE COMMUNITY YARD SALE**  
Colonial Village at Mumford's Landing, Ocean Pines, 8 a.m.-noon. There will be clothes, tools, games, furniture, home decor and more. Rain date is May 4.

**FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE**  
Bethany United Methodist Church, 8648 Stephen Decatur Highway, Berlin, 8-11 a.m. The event will be held outdoors. Vendors, to reserve space: 443-641-2186, [bethany21811@gmail.com](mailto:bethany21811@gmail.com).

**MAY THE 4TH**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 10 a.m. Join in for fun in a library far, far away. For ages 0-11 years. 410-208-4014, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**SAFE BOATING COURSE**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 8:30 a.m.-4

p.m. State mandated Recreational Safe Boating Course. Cost is \$20. Register: Barry Cohen, 410-935-4807, [CGAUXOC@gmail.com](mailto:CGAUXOC@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY WRITERS**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10 a.m. Novice and established writers gather to share their writing projects. Structure includes critiques and appreciation, market leads and writing exercises. Drop ins welcome. 410-641-0650

**CAR MAINTENANCE AND EMERGENCY ROADSIDE KITS**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 10:30-11:30 a.m. Covers basic car maintenance and how to prepare an emergency kit. For ages 12-18 years. 410-957-0878, [www.worcesterlibrary.org](http://www.worcesterlibrary.org)

**2025 ANNUAL CHARLIE MAC OPEN CHARITY. GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
Schumaker Park, 1019 S. Schumaker Drive, Salisbury, 12-5 p.m. United Needs and Abilities' 2nd Annual Disc Golf Tournament. Cost is \$100 for teams of two and \$50 for individual sign ups. RSVP: 410-543-0665. Info: [hgrudis@UNA1.org](mailto:hgrudis@UNA1.org).

**FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET**  
*Saturdays* - White Horse Park, 239 Ocean Parkway, 9 a.m. to noon. Shop for everything from fresh local produce to unique handmade artisan goods. Open to the public.

## Sun. May 4

**35TH ANNUAL CRUISIN' OCEAN CITY**  
Hugh T. Cropper Inlet Parking Lot, 809 S. Atlantic Ave., Ocean City, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Featuring more than 3,000 hot rods, customs, classics and trucks; music; celebrities; and more. Tickets: <https://specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city>. [infoevent@specialeventpro.com](mailto:infoevent@specialeventpro.com), 410-798-6304

**BERLIN FARMERS MARKET OPENING DAY**  
Historic Downtown Berlin, 124 N. Main St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Featuring 50+ farmers, food cultivators, bakers, distillers, seafood, meat and so much more. Also petting zoo (9-11 a.m.) and live music. Shops open early. Rain or shine. TheBerlinFarmersMarket.com

**CELEBRATION OF A VISITATION BY BISHOP**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3 Church St., Berlin. The church is having one service at 9:30 a.m. followed by a pot luck reception. This visitation to the church will be the last for Bishop Marray before his retirement later this year.

**BERLIN FLEA MARKET**  
*Sundays* - Uptown Emporium Parking

# Calendar

Lot, 13 S. Main St., Berlin, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendor opportunities available. Julie, 410-726-9012; Bill, 410-629-9656

**SEWING FOR A CAUSE**  
*Sundays* - Buckingham Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Main St., Berlin, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn how to sew while making a difference. 410-641-0234

**JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES MEETING**  
*Sundays* - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 10 a.m. www.jw.org

## Mon., May 5

**STORY TIME: TRANSPORTATION**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Crafts, songs and stories. For ages 0-5 years. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**QIGONG & TAI CHI FORMS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2 p.m. A meditation and movie practice to activate Chi (life-force energy) in the body. Safe, slow moves to improve balance and dexterity. Great for beginners. A five-week course. 410-208-4014

**ESL CONVERSATION CLUB**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Join other non-native English speakers for casual conversation practice and a short lesson prepared by an ESL instructor. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. The group meets twice a month to discuss selections from the Great Books Foundation. Today the group will focus on “Holy Week” by Deborah Eisenberg. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**  
John H. “Jack” Burbage, Jr. Regional Cancer Care Center, 9707 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3-4 p.m. Families, partners and other caregivers share similar challenges and rewards of providing care for adults who have any type of serious illness. Nicole Fry, nfry@atlanticgeneral.org, 410-641-2626

**CITIZEN RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 3 p.m. Share your local history research projects and learn from other citizen researchers. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**BRIDGE**  
*Mondays* - Ocean City 50plus Center, 104 41st Street, Ocean City, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Reserve a spot: Tish, 410-804-3971. www.Worcoa.org/oceancity

**WARHAMMER**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch,

13 Harrison Ave., 4 p.m. Use the library’s armies or bring your own. Tutorials and demos will be available, so novice and veteran players alike are welcome. For ages 12-18 years. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**CINCO DE MAYO**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about Cinco de Mayo, create a maraca and make a delicious hispanic dish. Adult assistance needed for younger children. For ages 6-18 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**T.O.P.S. OF BERLIN - GROUP #169**  
Atlantic General Hospital, Conference Room 1, 9733 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 5-6:30 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weekly support and educational group promoting weight loss and living a healthy lifestyle. Rose Campion, 410-641-0157

**MERMAID LORE: THEN AND NOW**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 5:30 p.m. Professional mermaid Tasha Haight weaves a tale about the mythology surrounding mermaids and sirens. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**DELMARVA WOMEN’S A CAPELLA CHORUS**  
*Mondays* - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All ladies who love to sing invited. Mary, 410-629-9383 or Carol, 302-242-7062.

**OVEREATER’S ANONYMOUS**  
*Mondays* - Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 7-8 p.m. No dues or fees. 410-459-9100

## Tues., May 6

**STORY TIME AT CYPRESS PARK**  
Cypress Park, 7 Bridge St., Pocomoke City, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and outside play. For ages 0-5 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**STORY TIME**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 10:30 a.m. Story time geared for ages 0-5 years featuring seasonal themes designed to support early literacy skills with stories, songs and finger plays. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**BABY TIME**  
Worcester County Library - Snow Hill Branch, 307 N. Washington St., 10:30 a.m. Songs, rhymes and stories. Stay after to socialize with other families. For ages 0-2 years. 410-632-3495, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES MEETING**  
*Tuesdays* - Berlin Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 212 West St., Berlin, 7 p.m. www.jw.org

**OC KNITTING GROUP**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City

Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 10:30 a.m. Do you love to knit or crochet? Bring whatever project you happen to be working on. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 11 a.m. Master Gardener Ginny Rosenkranz talks about all things plants. Bring questions and feel free to show your plants as well. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**WATERCOLOR BASICS**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 2 p.m. Artist Jan Coulbourne teaches this class about creating a piece of watercolor art. Registration required: 410-524-1818. www.worcesterlibrary.org

**MOTHER’S DAY AFTERNOON TEA**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 2:30 p.m. Celebrate Mother’s Day with your special someone. Join in for light refreshments and crafts. For families. Registration required: 410-208-4014. www.worcesterlibrary.org

**COMIC BOOK CLUB**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 4:30 p.m. Learn about comics and create your own. No experience required. For ages 6-11 years. 410-208-4014, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**MILLENNIAL-ISH: GAME NIGHT**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean City Branch, 10003 Coastal Highway, 5:30 p.m. Join the library and others in their ’20s-’40s to play board, card and switch games. 410-524-1818, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**BEACH HEROES-OC**  
*Tuesdays* - Volunteer beach clean-up group meets from 9-10 a.m., year-round. Trash bags, grippers and gloves provided. Check the Facebook page “Beach Heroes-OC” for weekly meeting locations. All are welcome.

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY**  
*Tuesdays* - Worcester County Health Department, 9730 Healthway Drive, Berlin, 3:30-4:30 p.m. TOPS is a weekly support and education group promoting weight loss and a healthy lifestyle. 410-289-4725

**ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE**  
*Tuesdays* - Experienced dancers and others interested in watching or learning more are welcome, 7-9:30 p.m. No partner required. Info: TangobytheBeach.com.

**ZUMBA TONING TUESDAYS**  
*Tuesdays* - Northside Park, 200 125th St., Ocean City, 5:30 p.m. Zumba with optional light weights. zumbajoyceoc@gmail.com

**WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND WELLNESS GROUP**  
*Tuesdays* - Holy Trinity Cathedral, 11021

Worcester Highway, 2-2:45 p.m. Use the weight loss program/app/plan of your choice. Free and open to everyone. 410-641-4882, www.htcanglican.org/activities.

## Wed., May 7

**PAINT & SIP**  
Ocean Pines Community Center, 235 Ocean Parkway, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$27 and includes wine and crackers. Must be at least 18 years or older to participate. Register: 410-641-7052.

**BARIATRIC SUPPORT GROUP**  
Meets the first and second Wednesday of each month. For non-surgical patients. Atlantic General Bariatric Center, 410-641-9568

**COMPUTER AND INTERNET BASICS**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St. Call to make an appointment for one-n-one assistance. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**BEADED BRACELETS FOR MOM**  
Worcester County Library - Pocomoke Branch, 401 Fifth St., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Drop by and make a beaded bracelet. Great Mother’s Day gift. Limited to 2 per person. For ages 6-18 years. 410-957-0878, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**PUZZLE SWAP**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 1-5 p.m. Bring your gently used puzzle and leave with a new-to-you puzzle. Don’t have a puzzle but still want one? That’s OK too. Puzzles must be in their original box. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP**  
Worcester County Library - Ocean Pines Branch, 11107 Cathell Road, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Group provides discussion and education on the topic of diabetes. Patti Yocubik, 410-208-9761, pyocubik@atlanticgeneral.org

**CHAIR YOGA**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 2 p.m. Certified yoga instructor, Nicole Long, teaches this class that stretches and strengthens in a gentle manner. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**PAJAMA STORY TIME**  
Worcester County Library - Berlin Branch, 13 Harrison Ave., 6:30 p.m. Wear pajamas and bring a stuffie to snuggle while you enjoy stories and songs to wind down to bed time. For families. 410-641-0650, www.worcesterlibrary.org

**KIWANIS CLUB MEETING**  
*Wednesdays* - Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, 8 a.m. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Last Wednesday of the month meetings are offsite and information can be found on the website and Facebook. www.kiwanisofopoc.org.

# Classified

## MARKETPLACE

Call **410-723-6397** or email  
[classifieds@octodaydispatch.com](mailto:classifieds@octodaydispatch.com)  
 by Monday, 5 p.m.

Classifieds appear in **OC Today-Dispatch & Bayside Gazette** each week & online at  
[octodaydispatch.com](http://octodaydispatch.com) & [baysideoc.com](http://baysideoc.com)



### HELP WANTED

**BOAT YARD**  
 Person to paint boat bottoms and cut grass at WOC boat yard.  
**Call 410-213-2296.**

**Seasonal Help Needed**  
 in mornings for a bed and breakfast in Snow Hill.  
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**MARINE MECHANIC**  
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